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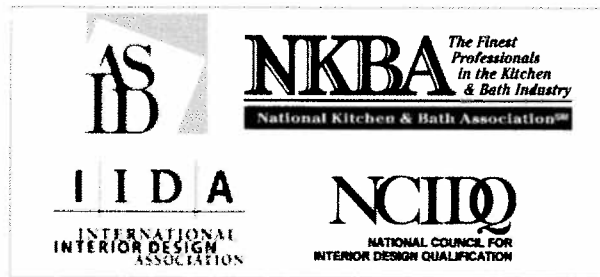
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Representing
Michigan's
Interior Design
Community

The Coalition for Interior Design Registration is an organization of interior designers and allied professionals dedicated to enacting legislation to protect the life-safety of the public and promote free and fair competitive access to the marketplace.

Current Law (P.A.250 of 1998)

This law eliminates the need for the consumer to pay both an interior designer and an architect for virtually identical services on a single project. Under the act, an interior designer considered "qualified" by the State Board of Architects can provide certain services without an architect's seal and submit those documents to local building officials for permits. Qualified interior designers use a stamp to verify their credentials when providing such services.

(This language was a compromise arrived at by building officials, architects, and interior designers after almost 18 months of negotiations.)

Current problem:

The Department of Consumer & Industry Services (CIS) - now the Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) - adopted the International Building Code (IBC), which recognizes only architects and engineers as "Registered Design Professionals". Interior Designers must work under the supervision of the recognized Registered Design Professional and would not be able to submit documents for permitting without an architect's seal.

This is in direct conflict with the legislative intent of PA 250 of 1998.

Solution:

CIDR and its member organizations have been working on draft legislation which would help clarify the original intent of P.A. 250 of 1998. A higher level of state recognition for the interior designer has been carefully explored. Such recognition, along with minor modifications to the existing statutory definition of interior design services will bring much needed clarification for the consumer, the interior design profession and building code officials.

Proposed Legislation:

HB4770, HB4771 and HB4772 are sponsored by State Representatives Bill Huizenga and Andy Meisner and would provide the following:

- Create a system of licensure for interior designers and a definition of interior design services and interior designer.
- Create the scope of practice and limitation of the duties of an interior designer, including the limitation that interior designer's duties do not include design or modification of load bearing structures as well as other limitations.
- Allow for interior designers to apply for building permits under their own seal per as allowed in the first bill.
- Set application processing fee of \$50 and an annual license fee to \$70.

Mission Statement

The Coalition for Interior Design Registration is an organization dedicated to defend and to protect the right to practice the profession of interior design in Michigan.



COALITION FOR
INTERIOR DESIGN
REGISTRATION

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The following is the definition of a “registered design professional” as defined in the Michigan International Building Code:

REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL - an individual who is registered or licensed to practice their respective design profession as defined by the statutory requirements of the professional registration laws of the state or jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed.

Interior designers are neither registered nor licensed in the state of Michigan.

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For North America



INTERIOR DESIGNERS

the truth about the interior design legislation

THIS LAW WILL NOT PUT YOU OUT OF BUSINESS!

Did you know. . . ?

You may apply within one year to be grandfathered as a licensed interior designer *without* having passed the NCIDQ exam if you can document your credentials: minimum of six years combination of education and/or work experience in providing interior design services with at least two of those six years being practical experience.

You may also be grandfathered if you are not NCIDQ certified but are on the State List of Qualified Interior Designers.

You are exempted from this law if you are currently licensed or registered in a profession that as part of that profession provides interior design services - for example: architects, engineers, builders.

Under the residential and retail exemptions, you may continue to provide interior design services as long as you do not call yourself an interior designer. You may, for example, call yourself an interior decorator, an interiors consultant, a kitchen designer or a bath designer.

26 states and all the provinces of Canada have laws regulating interior designers. Another eight states have legislation in process.

For more information, visit cidr-mi.org.



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Why Interior Designers Should Be Registered or Licensed

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- The interior design of structures and environments significantly affects the health, safety and welfare of the public. The public benefits from knowing that the individuals they entrust with the design of their interior spaces are qualified.
- Legal recognition [registration or licensure] establishes standards of minimum competency, including education, experience and examination, which are enforceable.
- Interior designers improve the health, safety and welfare of the public in the spaces they design. Legal recognition ensures that only qualified individuals design interior spaces or represent themselves to the public as state certified or registered interior designers.
- By providing a legal definition of the scope of practice, legislation helps consumers differentiate the responsibilities and services of each of the design professions. It allows consumers to choose the appropriate professional and brings the benefit of open competition to the design process.
- Legal recognition enables a state or jurisdiction to discipline an interior designer. Without the ability to regulate and discipline a profession, a jurisdiction cannot protect the public.
- Legal recognition of interior designers benefits and protects the public in other ways. It provides standards of practice embodied in an enforceable code of ethics, which incorporates professional fiduciary responsibilities. Additionally, it allows consumers a means of addressing grievances with interior designers and prevents unethical designers from continuing to practice.

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Health, Safety and Welfare

Every decision an interior designer makes in one way or another affects the health, safety and welfare of the public. Those decisions include specifying furniture, fabrics and carpeting that comply with fire codes and space planning that provides proper means of egress. Additionally, interior designers deal with accessibility issues, ergonomics, lighting, acoustics and design solutions for those with special needs.

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Fire Safety

Interior materials play a major part in supporting flames or toxicity. Statistics prove that more people die in fires as a result of inhaling toxic fumes and smoke than from the flames themselves. Architects are not always involved when interior furnishings and materials are selected. Many public and commercial spaces are finished by an interior designer long after an architect is involved. Additionally, residences utilizing an interior designer seldom involve an architect. Interior designers are specially trained in interior materials and their properties, including flammability and toxicity and are uniquely qualified to select interior finishes that comply with local, state and national fire codes.

Interior designers are also charged with establishing and maintaining proper means of egress that comply with code. Additionally, audible and visible fire alarm systems and emergency exit lighting must be planned into public areas.

Accessibility

Trained and qualified interior designers study and implement accessibility codes and guidelines daily. In space planning, interior detailing and specifications and the implementation of accessibility codes and guidelines are essential. Space must be allowed for the proper turning radius of a wheelchair and telephone, electrical outlets, call buttons, etc., must be specified at an appropriate height for an individual in a wheelchair to access them. Additionally, hardware specifications must provide for individuals without the full use of their limbs.

Ergonomics

Ergonomics is a growing concern in the workplace. It is the obligation of qualified interior designers to design workspaces that are ergonomic and functional. Interior designers create ergonomic workspaces by providing adjustable chairs, tables and footrests. An environment that provides the occupant with the ability to adjust his or her space to his or her own needs can prevent problems such as repetitive motion strain.

Special Needs of the Elderly

According to the National Safety Council, the leading cause of death in the home-falls-took the lives of 15,400 people in 2001. More than 60 percent of these people are 65 years old or older. Understanding environmental needs for the aged has become a special design imperative for this century. In the year 2000, people 65 years of age or older numbered 35 million or almost 13% of the population; this number is expected to more than double to about 70 million people by 2030. Interior designers are creating environments that focus on the special needs of seniors and prevent possibly fatal injuries by selecting safe furniture, adding railings and grab bars where necessary and specifying non-skid surfaces.

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Health, Safety and Welfare

Health

- Indoor Air Quality
- Lighting to Improve Health
- Accessibly
- Lighting Design
- Eyestrain
- Noise
- Short-Term Stress
- Ergonomics
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- Repetitive Motion Injury
- Back and Shoulder Strain

Safety

- Protecting against failure, damage, error, accidents, and harm
- Responsible for assuring safety through product and design specification
- Prevention of slipping and smoke inhalation
- Reduction of job-related stress
- Increasing visibility
- Safety from fire, smoke, and toxins

Welfare

- Contributing to the state of doing well especially in relation to good fortune, well being, or happiness
- Indoor air-quality, space, noise, ergonomics, and exposure to daylight and nature impact well-being, relation, and performance (Kolleeny, 2003)
- Designed environments linked to place attachment, happiness, and security
- Interior designers focus on functional, emotional, and aesthetically meaningful needs to facilitate well-being and place attachment

Definition of Interior Design

Interior design is a multi-faceted profession in which creative and technical solutions are applied within a structure to achieve a built interior environment. These solutions are functional, enhance the quality of life and culture of the occupants, and are aesthetically attractive. Designs are created in response to and coordinated with the building shell, and acknowledge the physical location and social context of the project. Designs must adhere to code and regulatory requirements, and encourage the principles of environmental sustainability. The interior design process follows a systematic and coordinated methodology, including research, analysis and integration of knowledge into the creative process, whereby the needs and resources of the client are satisfied to produce an interior space that fulfills the project goals.

Interior design includes a scope of services performed by a professional design practitioner, qualified by means of education, experience, and examination, to protect and enhance the life, health, safety and welfare of the public. These services may include any or all of the following tasks:

- Research and analysis of the client's goals and requirements; and development of documents, drawings and diagrams that outline those needs;
- Formulation of preliminary space plans and two and three dimensional design concept studies and sketches that integrate the client's program needs and are based on knowledge of the principles of interior design and theories of human behavior;
- Confirmation that preliminary space plans and design concepts are safe, functional, aesthetically appropriate, and meet all public health, safety and welfare requirements, including code, accessibility, environmental, and sustainability guidelines;
- Selection of colors, materials and finishes to appropriately convey the design concept, and to meet socio-psychological, functional, maintenance, life-cycle performance, environmental, and safety requirements;
- Selection and specification of furniture, fixtures, equipment and millwork, including layout drawings and detailed product description; and provision of contract documentation to facilitate pricing, procurement and installation of furniture;
- Provision of project management services, including preparation of project budgets and schedules;
- Preparation of construction documents, consisting of plans, elevations, details and specifications, to illustrate non-structural and/or non-seismic partition layouts; power and communications locations; reflected ceiling plans and lighting designs; materials and finishes; and furniture layouts;
- Preparation of construction documents to adhere to regional building and fire codes, municipal codes, and any other jurisdictional statutes, regulations and guidelines applicable to the interior space;
- Coordination and collaboration with other allied design professionals who may be retained to provide consulting services, including but not limited to architects; structural, mechanical and electrical engineers, and various specialty consultants;
- Confirmation that construction documents for non-structural and/or non-seismic construction are signed and sealed by the responsible interior designer, as applicable to jurisdictional requirements for filing with code enforcement officials;
- Administration of contract documents, bids and negotiations as the client's agent;
- Observation and reporting on the implementation of projects while in progress and upon completion, as a representative of and on behalf of the client; and conducting post-occupancy evaluation reports.

Glossary Of Terms Found In The Definition Of Interior Design

"Accessibility" means features of buildings or spaces that enable use by people regardless of their level of ability.

"Building Shell" means the architecture of the existing building, including the framework, the perimeter/exterior walls, the building core and columns, and other structural, load-bearing elements of the building.

"Construction Documents" mean the detailed working drawings that define the work to be constructed. This may include partition plans, power and communications plans, reflected ceiling plans, material and finishes plans, and furniture layout plans, as well as elevations, sections and details, along with the drawings of associated consultants.

"Contract Documents" means the set of documents that form a part of the legal contract for services between two or more parties. These typically include detailed instructions to the contractor, tender forms, construction documents and specifications.

"Contract Administration" means the set of services which may include developing and monitoring schedules and construction costs; ensuring construction is completed in conformance with contracts and design intent; liaison with contractors and consultants throughout the course of construction; reviewing shop drawings and submissions from the contractor; observing and commenting on construction progress; monitoring move-in and furniture installation; and conducting required post-occupancy evaluations.

"Environmental" means the aggregate of the physical conditions of the interior environment that affects the health and safety of the occupants, including air quality and circulation, temperature control, ergonomic layout, physical circulation plan and related matters.

"Maintenance" means the ability of a product or material to be kept to its proper condition, and the work required to sustain that condition over the life of that material.

"Non-structural or non-seismic" means interior elements or components that are not load-bearing or do not assist in the seismic design and do not require design computations for a building's structure. It excludes the structural frame supporting a building. Common non-structural elements or components include, but are not limited to, ceiling and partition systems. These elements employ normal and typical bracing conventions and are not part of the structural integrity of the building.

"Partition" means a wall which does not support a vertical load of a structure other than its own weight, but may support loads attached to it such as cabinetry, shelving or grab bars, and does not extend further than from the floor of an interior area of a structure designed for human habitation or occupancy, to the underside of the deck of that structure.

"Programming" means the scope of work which includes, but is not limited to, conducting research; identifying and analyzing the needs and goals of the client and/or occupant(s) of the space; evaluating existing documentation and conditions; assessing project resources and limitations; identifying life, safety and code requirements; and developing project schedules and budgets.

"Reflected ceiling plan" means a ceiling design that illustrates a ceiling as if it was projected downward and may include lighting and other elements.

"Space planning" means the analysis and design of spatial and occupancy requirements, including, but not limited to, space layouts and final planning.

"Specifications" means the detailed written description of construction, workmanship and materials of the work to be undertaken.

"Sustainability" means the use of resources in such a way that they are not depleted; a method of practice or use of materials that is capable of being continued with minimal long-term effect on the environment.

What Does an Interior Designer Do?

An interior designer is professionally trained to create a functional and quality interior environment. Qualified through education, experience and examination, a professional designer can identify, research and creatively resolve issues and lead to a healthy, safe and comfortable physical environment.

Interior designers provide various services including:

- consulting services to help determine project goals and objectives
- generating ideas for the functional and aesthetic possibilities of the space
- creating illustrations and renderings
- developing documents and specifications relative to interior spaces in compliance with applicable building and safety codes
- allocating, organizing and arranging a space to suit its function
- monitoring and managing construction and installation of design
- selecting and specifying fixtures, furnishings, products, materials and colors
- purchasing products and fixtures
- designing and managing fabrication of custom furnishings and interior details
- designing lighting and specifying

Frequently Asked Questions About Interior Design and Designers

What is the difference between an interior designer and an interior decorator?

Interior designers are professionally trained in space planning. In 26 states, they must pass a strict exam. While both designers and decorators are concerned with aesthetics, style and mood, interior designers have comprehensive training and command skills that may include an understanding of:

- flame spread ratings, smoke, toxicity and fire rating classifications and materials
- space planning for public and private facilities
- national, state and local building codes
- standards regarding the needs of disabled or elderly persons and other special needs groups
- ergonomics
- lighting quality and quantity
- acoustics and sound transmission

A decorator works only with surface decoration - paint, fabric, furnishings, lighting and other materials. Because no license is required, upholsterers, housepainters, and other tradespeople also claim the name "decorator."

Do interior designers do more than make spaces attractive?

In addition to the aesthetics of a space, an interior designer creates a space that is functional, efficient and safe and enhances the quality of the working and living environment.

Are architects and engineers ultimately responsible for most of the jobs that interior designers perform?

No. Increasingly, buildings are designed not as completed objects, but as "shells" into which tenants and others create their own design. Think of the numerous examples of completed exteriors with incomplete interiors such as shopping malls, restaurants, office buildings, hotels and apartment complexes. Interior designers focus on and specialize in the planning of the interior elements of a building's design.

by Charlotte S. Jensen, FASID

Design Versus Decoration

Just what is the difference between interior design and decoration?

A couple of years ago I conducted an informal survey asking people what they thought an interior designer (ID) did. One stated, "I don't know what an interior designer does, but I think I know what an interior decorator does." Another said, "[He or she] makes things look nice." Journalists, and the

public, often use the two terms interchangeably—interior designer and interior decorator. No wonder there is so much confusion about the ID profession. For a while, I admit I even avoided telling people I was an interior designer. A typical cocktail conversation would go like this: "What do you do?" a stranger would ask.

"I'm an interior designer," I answered. "Oh, my wife is great with color."

Many examples illustrate how confused the public is about the design professions. Frank Stasiowski, an author of numerous marketing and management books for architects and interior designers, has stated that the public does not

Designer Versus Decorator

The chart below, created by Lisa Whited, IIDA, ASID, illustrates one certified interior designer's view of the difference between interior design and decoration.

Item	Certified/Registered/Licensed Interior Designer	Interior Decorator
Furniture/casegoods	Evaluates aesthetics, finish durability, structural stability for usage, appropriateness of drawer glides, pulls and hinges used, appropriateness of horizontal surface material and if endangered species are used.	Selects style, finish and proportion based upon usage.
Window covering	Evaluates appropriate type and style based upon sun and light control, privacy, flammability, acoustic properties and control system.	Selects color and texture; designs style of window covering.
Artwork	Selects proper method of securing artwork to wall to ensure that it does not fall off the wall and injure anyone.	Selects and places artwork.
Wall finishes	Evaluates appropriateness of type based upon durability, acoustic properties, cleanability, flame retardancy, allergens, toxicity and off-gassing properties.	Selects color, style and texture of finishes.
Plants	Ensures that the plants selected do not have strong odors or poisonous leaves that could harm people, particularly small children.	Selects and places plants and containers.
Floor plan	Draws plan showing location of furniture to meet not only client requirements, but also ADA, egress and fire code requirements.	Draws plan showing location of furniture to meet client requirements.
Signage	Selects style, color and location of signage to meet ADA requirements.	None.
Lighting/electrical	Draws plan, showing location of light fixtures, switch/dimmer locations, prepares fixture and lamp schedule. Indicates electrical locations with consideration for GFI requirements.	Selects decorative lighting fixtures.
Millwork	Draws elevations showing built-in casework such as counters and cabinetry to meet ADA requirements for commercial spaces and appropriateness for residential spaces.	Selects style and finish of cabinets and millwork.
Accessories	Ensures that decorative accessories are securely fastened so they cannot fall off of a pedestal or wall and injure anyone. The durability and security of accessories is considered in commercial installations.	Selects and places decorative accessories including vases, sculptures, etc.
Public restrooms	Draws plan showing accessible toilets, grab bars and sinks. Locates mirrors, paper towels and trash receptacles to meet ADA. Selects finishes that meet fire code requirements and slip-resistance for ADA access.	Selects color and finishes that are aesthetically appropriate.
Upholstered furniture	Evaluates internal construction for usage, hypoallergenic concerns of client, reviews flammability of internal components, as well as fabric technical data in reference to light fastness, wear and flammability. Further evaluates fabric for cleanability and dimensional stability.	Selects style and size of upholstered piece and fabric to be applied to the piece.
Floor coverings	Evaluates selection based upon appropriateness of type, usage, sound transference, acoustic properties, flammability, use of endangered species, off-gassing properties, static electricity requirements and flammability.	Selects type, color, texture and pattern.

even know what an architect does, let alone an interior designer. He states that the public knows that if they want a safe building, they should hire an engineer. If they want it to look nice, they *might* hire an architect. Remember, this is public perception, and perception becomes reality when people do not have correct information. If this is what the public thinks about architecture, can you imagine their perception of interior design and decoration? No wonder there is so much confusion—and shows like “Designing Women” don’t help matters much.

So, what is the difference between interior design and decoration? *Webster’s Dictionary* defines interior design as “the art or practice of planning and supervising the design and execution of architectural interiors and their furnishings.” However, under interior decoration it states, “See interior design.” Who wouldn’t be confused?

Interior design is *not* the same as decoration. If architecture is defined as the art and science of designing structures for human interaction (*Webster’s*), then interior design is the art and science of understanding people’s behavior in order to create functional spaces within the structures that architects design. Decoration is the furnishing or adorning a space with fashionable or beautiful things. Decoration, although a valuable and important element of an interior, is not solely concerned with human interaction or human behavior. Interior design is *all* about human behavior and human interaction.

Lisa Whited, past president of the board of directors of NCIDQ, believes is that certified/registered/licensed interior designers *may* provide interior decorating services, but interior decorators are not qualified to provide interior design services (see sidebar). One of the primary differences between the two professions is that interior designers are responsible for elements that affect the public’s health, welfare and safety.

The interior design profession has been working diligently for many years to draw boundaries between decoration and interior design. Some of the first efforts

began in the early 1970s with the establishment of NCIDQ. NCIDQ was created to “aid and assist the general public by establishing and administering an examination to determine which practitioners of interior design shall be certified as practitioners competent to practice in the field of interior design.”

As NCIDQ and the professional associations—International Interior Design Association (IIDA), American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), Interior Designers of Canada (IDC) and Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC)—have been working to raise the bar for the interior design profession, other associations have been focusing on establishing credentials for the decoration industry. Any industry that decides to create guidelines and raise the professionalism of its industry deserves commendation—and the decoration community deserves no less.

Some people have argued that residential interior design is different from commercial interior design; however, NCIDQ’s *Analysis of the Interior Design Profession* (1998) determined that there is no discernable difference between residential and contract interior design: both disciplines require essentially the *same* knowledge and skills. The body of knowledge that both must possess in order to practice include health and safety codes; the principles of design; how interior elements are constructed; and the psychological needs of people (in terms of interiors and interior elements). Skills that competent interior designers must have include the ability to solve problems; manage contracts, money, data, people and projects; communicate orally, in writing and visually; design interiors; perform needs assessments; develop space; achieve an aesthetic; create ambience; and be innovative. In addition, professional interior designers are formally educated in interior design principles, have integrity and professional ethics, are user-oriented, are detailed and technically oriented and have experience in the design of interiors.

In light of the ongoing controversy between architects and interior designers,

I think that if architects had a better understanding of the difference between interior design and decoration, they might hesitate to judge the regulation of interior designers as a negative movement. Often one will hear the statistic, “There are 200,000 interior designers practicing in the United States, and only 15,000 have passed the NCIDQ exam.” The fact: there are 15,000 *qualified* interior designers practicing interior design in the United States. There are thousands of additional interior designers that have not yet taken the NCIDQ examination.

However, I believe that the 200,000 number that is bantered about includes wallpaper hangers, painters and drapery workrooms, as well as many people who call themselves designers, yet do not practice full-time nor have any background or schooling for this profession. Most of them would never be qualified to take the NCIDQ examination in the first place nor should they. Some are experts in their fields, and there are certification programs and professional associations in those industries for those folks to join if they so wish.

Interior design and decoration? Is there a difference? Yes. Why does it matter to you? Because, if you are a professional interior designer, there are two things you must do: take the NCIDQ exam (if you haven’t already), and continue to educate the public about the difference between design and decoration. I don’t shy away from stating my profession anymore at cocktail parties. I spend the extra five minutes to educate the stranger about my profession—and it is five minutes worth its weight in gold. ■

Charlotte Jensen, FASID, is president of the National Council for Interior Design Qualification. NCIDQ is located at 1200 18th St. N.W., Ste. 1001, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 789-0400; www.ncidq.org.

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Primary Sponsor Representative Bill Huizenga

Ask for Your Support of HB4771 and HB4772
Primary Sponsor Representative Andy Meisner

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Michigan Colleges and Universities with Interior Design Programs

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Mission Statement

The Coalition for Interior Design Registration is an organization dedicated to defend and to protect the right to practice the profession of interior design in Michigan.

IS IT IS ALL Simply a Little Misunderstanding?

Do architects know what interior designers really do?

A colleague of mine, a director at an interior design school, recently shared the following two stories with me.

One of her adjunct faculty members was interviewing for an interior design position in an architectural firm. One of the principals asked her what type of work she enjoyed the most. She commented that she enjoyed the programming aspects:—determining client needs and requirements. The architect responded, “Oh, so you are really just a closet architect.”

I was taken aback when I heard the story, thinking that somewhere there is an architect who thinks programming is not something that we interior designers do. It made me wonder what they think she will contribute to their firm. I have to conclude that architects think interior designers contribute to their projects, since most large architectural firms have interior designers as principals.

The second story centers around a discussion that five students (two architecture students and three interior design students) had in a studio class. The following day two of the students approached the director and commented that they wanted to switch majors—to architecture—because the other students told them that, “All interior designers do is select finishes.”

I relay these stories because they illustrate the perception of our profession among architects and even architecture students. Perhaps the resistance that some in the architecture profession have toward interior design licensing is based on not having a clear understanding of what interior designers do either through education or experience. For instance, interior designers and architects sit side by side in at least 56 semester hours of instruction if they graduate from the University of Texas with a bachelor in architecture or interior design.

In the last few years, interior designers and architects have struggled with interior design licensing legislation. Architects believe they are trained to do interior design through their education and should, therefore, be exempted from any interior design legislation. Our profession takes the converse view: we believe that only those in a formal interior design program have been educated to do interior design, and that does not include architecture students who are on an architecture track. It is not uncommon for universities to require that interior design students take architectural courses, but not require architecture students to take interior design courses. Our position remains the same: that while our profession shares

some of the same knowledge areas as architecture, interior design and architecture are two distinct professions, each with a different set of educational requirements and distinct skills, knowledge and abilities.

WHO IS AN INTERIOR DESIGNER?

There are many practicing architects who started in architecture before interior design was recognized as a distinct profession from architecture. These more seasoned professionals may have been trained in all aspects of design—from site to building envelope to interior finishes and furniture selection to even graphic design. However, today's complex buildings and environments often call for a team of trained professionals to work on a project. An interior designer is one of those trained professionals—requiring a minimum amount of education,

experience and examination. Currently 24 U.S. jurisdictions and eight Canadian provinces legally recognize interior design—requiring some combination of the above. (NCIDQ's model language for legislation recommends a minimum four-year FIDER-accredited education, two years monitored experience, plus passage of the NCIDQ examination.) These credentialing agencies are similar to ones that exist for architecture. In addition, many states are now requiring continuing education for interior designers. Chart One, below, explains further.

WHAT KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES DOES AN INTERIOR DESIGNER POSSESS?

Perhaps the best description of the knowledge an interior designer must have is FIDER's list of standards for accrediting interior design schools. In addition to the

PURPOSE	INTERIOR DESIGN ORGANIZATION	ARCHITECTURE ORGANIZATION
Education	FIDER —Foundation for Interior Design Education Research	NAAB —National Architectural Accrediting Board
Experience	IDEP —Interior Design Experience Program, as administered by NCIDQ	IDP —Intern Development Program as administered by NCARB
Examination	NCIDQ —National Council for Interior Design Qualification	NCARB —National Council for Architectural Registration Boards
Professional Association	ASID —American Society of Interior Designers IIDA —International Interior Design Association	AIA —American Institute of Architects

FIDER STANDARDS	INDICATORS	INDICATORS (PARTIAL LIST)
Professional Values	Program leads students to develop the attitudes, traits and values of professional responsibility, accountability and effectiveness.	Professional ethics. Consciousness of alternate points of view and appreciation of cultural diversity. Global perspective and approach to thinking and problem solving. Critical, analytical and strategic thinking. Ability to think visually and volumetrically.
Design Fundamentals	Students have a foundation in the fundamentals of art and design, theories of design and human behavior and discipline-related history.	Understanding of design fundamentals. Understanding of theories of human behavior and interior environments. History of art, architecture, interiors and furnishings.
Interior Design	Students understand and apply the knowledge, skills, processes and theories of interior design.	Apply three-dimensional design elements and principles to development of the spatial envelope. Select and apply color in projects. Programming skills including problem identification, problem solving, identification of client and/or user needs, information gathering research and analysis. Competent schematic design and concept development skills including concept statements, ability to rapidly visualize concepts through sketching, space planning (adjacencies, circulation, articulation and shaping of space). Competent design development skills including selection of interior finishes and materials, detailed layout of floor plan, elevations, sketches, study models selection and application of luminaires and lighting sources. Competent skills in preparation of drawings, schedules and specifications as an integrated system of contract documents. Design development skills including selection and application of art, design of custom interior elements, wayfinding methods, graphic identification (signage).
Communication	Students communicate effectively.	Competence in drafting and lettering—manual and CAD. Presentation of color, materials and furnishings (samples boards, mock-ups, digital representations, etc.). Communicate clearly in writing, specifications, schedules and contracts, project programs, concept statements, reports, etc. Ability to render, draw in perspective, construct models.
Building Systems and Interior Materials	Students design within the context of building systems. Students use appropriate materials and products.	Understanding that design solutions affect and are impacted by construction systems and methods, power distribution systems, HVAC, energy management, data/voice telecom, lighting, ceiling, flooring, security systems, acoustics, interface of workstation furniture systems with building systems. Demonstrate that materials and products are appropriately selected and applied on the basis of their properties and performance criteria. Demonstrate understanding of sustainable resources. Knowledge of installation methods and material maintenance requirements.
Regulations	Students apply the laws, codes, regulations, standards and practices that protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.	Understanding of the impact of fire and life safety principles including compartmentalization (fire separation), movement (stairwells, corridors, exitways), detection (smoke/heat detectors and alarm systems) and suppression (sprinklers/fire hose cabinets). Demonstrate appropriate application of codes, regulations and standards (ANSI, CSI, IES, NBC, UBC, etc.), barrier-free design concepts and ergonomic and human factors data. Understanding of the impact on health and welfare of indoor air quality, noise and lighting. Understanding of universal design concepts and principles.
Business and Professional Practice	Students have a foundation in business and professional practice.	Understanding of project management practices including estimating, budget management, coordination of project team, time management, scheduling and contract administration. Information management, conflict resolution and assessment processes (post-occupancy evaluation, productivity, square footage ratios). Knowledge of business computer applications, business processes (marketing, strategic planning and accounting procedures).

expected standards around curriculum structure, faculty, facilities, administration and assessment, FIDER requires interior design programs to meet standards ranging from Professional Values to Building Systems and Regulations. Chart 2 (above) lists

the standards, and includes examples of the "indicators" that FIDER reviewers look for when assessing a program.

Clearly, the value an interior design professional brings to an architectural project—whether a small house renovation or a

multi-million-square-foot international project—is deeper than the FIDER list of requirements in Chart 2. NCIDQ's IDEP (Interior Design Experience Program) requires further experience in all areas of practice (a minimum of 3,520 hours working for a

qualified professional). Finally, passage of the NCIDQ examination ensures that an interior designer meets minimum competency to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Interior designers are not "closet architects," and "selecting finishes" is a very small part of what we do today. Interior designers are educated and trained to do interior design work—work that impacts human behavior and well-being. Interior designers have been working diligently in many states to pass legislation to legally regulate our profession. In many states, the designers have met with resistance from architects. One of their arguments against legislation is that the public will be at risk. Those truly concerned with public health, safety and welfare should embrace licensing legislation. We must work with our architecture colleagues to put public protection above all other things—including egos and the misperception of increased competition.

Interior design has matured into a profession that contributes to society's well-being. Successful passage of interior design legislation in all U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions is a natural step toward maturation of the profession. ●

Donna Vining, FASID, is the current NCIDQ past-president and president of Vining Design Associates, Inc., in Houston, TX, specializing in residential project management. She has been a registered interior designer in Texas since 1993 and is an NCIDQ Certificate holder. For more information about NCIDQ, visit its Web site at www.ncidq.org. For more information about FIDER or for a complete copy of FIDER Professional Standards, contact FIDER at (616) 458-0400 or visitgo to www.fider.org or contact the FIDER office at (616) 458-0400.

The Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) recent survey of five Michigan schools -
 Eastern Michigan University · Kendall College of Art & Design · Lawrence Technological University
 Michigan State University · Western Michigan University

- 180 to 200 interior design students graduate each year.

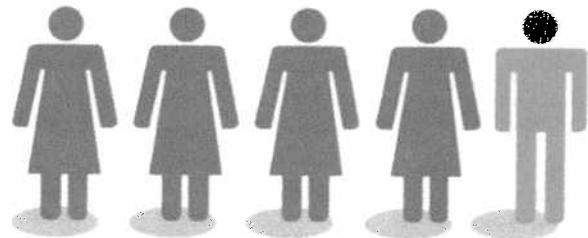
ASID surveyed small interior design firms to learn more about the work they do and the challenges they face.

95%

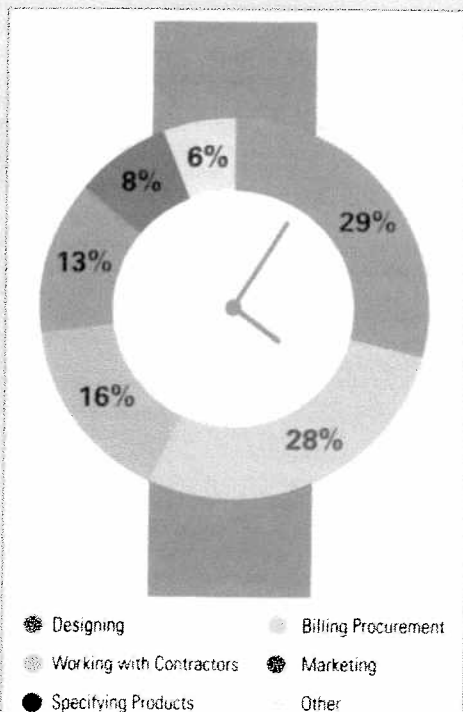
5%



95% of survey respondents said they rely on word of mouth to market their services.



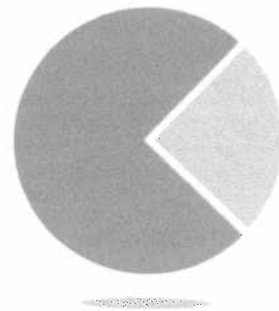
Four in five interior designers are women.



Where designers spend their time.

Small design firms

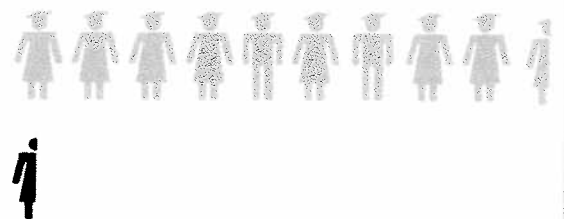
Large design firms



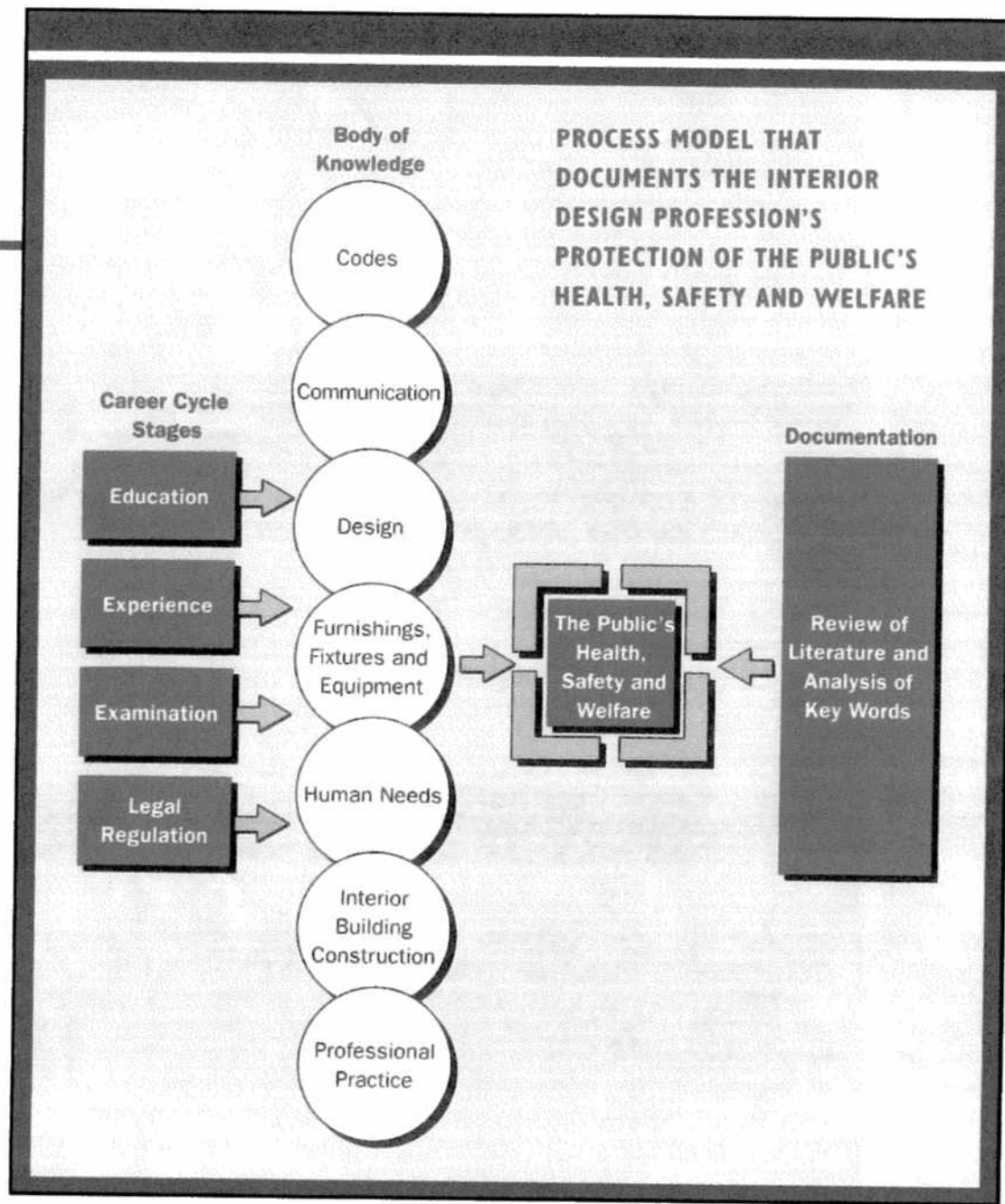
About two-thirds of all interior design businesses in the U.S. are either small firms or sole practitioners.

95%

5%



About 95% of interior designers have a college degree.



Exam & IDEP Eligibility Requirements



Route 1

Education

Bachelor's degree (minimum) from a CIDA-accredited interior design program¹

Including: No less than 120 semester or 180 quarter credit hours, of which no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter hours are interior design coursework

96 sem/144 qtr hours completed

Apply for IDEP now!

Up to 1,760 hours of work experience can be earned before education is completed²

Completion of education

Work Experience

3,520 hours interior design experience

Final 1,760 hours must be earned after all education is completed

Apply for Exam

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

Route 2

Education

Bachelor's degree (minimum) in an interior design program not accredited by CIDA¹

Including: No less than 120 semester or 180 quarter credit hours, of which no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter hours are interior design coursework

96 sem/144 qtr hours completed

Apply for IDEP now!

Up to 1,760 hours of work experience can be earned before education is completed²

Completion of education

Work Experience

3,520 hours interior design experience

Final 1,760 hours must be earned after all education is completed

Apply for Exam

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

Route 3

Education

Bachelor's degree (minimum) in any other major³

AND

No less than 60 semester or 90 quarter hours of interior design coursework that culminates in a degree (associate's, bachelor's or master's)

96 sem/144 qtr hours completed

Apply for IDEP now!

Up to 1,760 hours of work experience can be earned before education is completed²

Completion of education

Work Experience

3,520 hours interior design experience

Final 1,760 hours must be earned after all education is completed

Apply for Exam

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

Route 4

Education

No less than 60 semester or 90 quarter hours of interior design coursework that culminates in a degree or diploma

Completion of education

Apply for IDEP now!

Work Experience

5,280 hours interior design experience

Education must be complete before work experience begins

Apply for Exam

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

Route 5

Education

No less than 40 semester or 60 quarter hours of interior design coursework that culminates in a certificate, degree or diploma

Completion of education

Work Experience

7,040 hours interior design experience

Education must be complete before work experience begins

Apply for Exam

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

Timeline is typical for full-time education followed by full-time work experience. However, there is no minimum or maximum time limit.

¹ CIDA—the Council for Interior Design Accreditation—was formerly known as FIDER. To be considered CIDA-accredited, your degree program must have been CIDA-accredited at the date of your graduation or must have become CIDA-accredited during the two-year period following your graduation date.

² If you receive academic credit for work experience, you cannot count that work toward NCIDQ's work experience requirement.

³ Any major other than interior design is included in this route: architecture, English, nursing, psychology, etc.

Go to www.ncidq.org to learn more and apply online!



**National Council for
Interior Design Qualification**

1200 18th Street NW, Suite 1001
Washington, DC 20036-2506

Phone: (202) 721-0220

Fax: (202) 721-0221

www.ncidq.org

Universal Design

A COMMITMENT TO ACCOMMODATE ALL

BY JENNY S. REBHOLZ, ALLIED MEMBER ASID

Pat Rowen, ASID, CAPS, has a poster in her office that shows a baby crawling, a little boy playing, a teenager on crutches, a businessman with groceries, an elderly person in a walker and a person in a wheelchair. It reminds her to think of all the stages of life. Universal design is a responsibility Rowen takes seriously, and she believes that she has the power to make life better for all of her clients no matter their stage of life.

A practicing designer for almost 20 years, Rowen has come to realize how many people need help with accessibility-related issues – a trend becoming more evident with the aging of the baby boomer generation. More and more, people want to live a happy, healthy life in the home that means something to them and their family. By applying universal design principles, every family member – regardless of age, size, ability or health – can enjoy the environment.

More and more, people want to live a happy, healthy life in the home that means something to them and their family.

Rowen has met the requirements to qualify as a Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist through the CAPS program – developed by the National Association of Home Builders Remodelers Council in collaboration with AARP, the NAHB Research Center and the NAHB Seniors Council – which trains professionals how to successfully work with older and maturing adults on aging-in-place remodeling projects. “The program gives you exposure to the topic and what to pay attention to,” describes Rowen. “They get you out of the building doing things in order to make you aware of the issues and how someone with a disability would live.”

A Perfect Opportunity

People in every part of the country can benefit from good design, and Rowen is showing the residents of Hillsdale, Mich., a town of about 8,500 residents, that good design can contribute to a lifetime of hap-

piness in a home. “We are an hour from any major city, and the market is middle income or lower. The homes in this town were built between approximately 1850 and 1960; everything here needs to be remodeled,” says Rowen.

John and Mary Anne MacRitchie lived a distance from town in a house that had become too big for their lifestyle needs and wasn’t properly designed for their physical needs as they aged. They had their eyes on a smaller 1927 home just blocks from town and asked Rowen to take a look at the new property.

“Leaving the home where we raised our children was a tough decision, but it needed to be made. We don’t need a two-story home with all that space and required maintenance,” comments John MacRitchie.

The challenge of renovating the new home was to work with the relatively small existing space and still provide all the necessary universal



design elements. To meet the budget requirements, Rowen needed to stay within the space, maximizing the layout to accommodate all the couple's needs on the main floor, which is only 1,033 square feet. To address so many uses in such a small space, prioritizing was essential. Rowen focused first on making sure the traffic patterns provided plenty of space for a wheelchair or walker, should the need arise. She then examined storage issues and adjustments that would help make the functions of the home easier.

"There were a lot of design elements that they did not know about, but they were open to suggestions," says Rowen of her clients. "As I worked through the plan, I would walk them through the ideas." This partnership proved successful for both parties. "Pat consults with her clients to understand what they want and designs a space that suits their needs," comments Mary Anne Ritchie. "She educated

Sinks throughout the home, including the master bath, use a single central faucet located on the side for ease of use.



us about aging in place and what could be done with our space.”

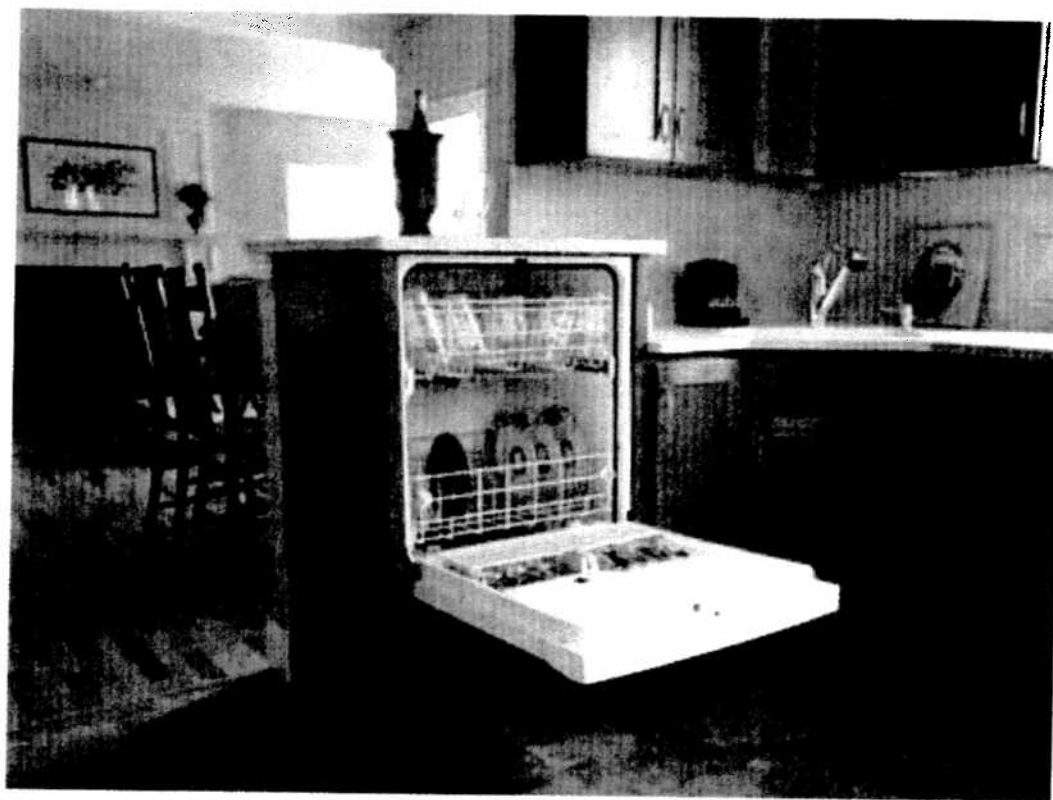
The total remodel, including labor and materials, was accomplished with an \$80,000 budget, and the work was completed within three months, before the MacRitchies moved in.

The General Conditions

Rowen’s plans for the first floor included a living and dining area, kitchen, powder room and master suite, so the couple would not need to maneuver up and down stairs for their daily needs. A bedroom and bathroom suite occupies the second level to accommodate guests or to serve as future space for a caregiver.

Plumbing, electrical and HVAC components were brought up to current building code standards, and smoke detectors were installed. Rowen installed motion sensors on the front and back porches for added security and safety, along with lighted rocker switches throughout the home and a lighted doorbell for ease of use. Conveniences such as three-foot doors with lever handles and new electrical outlets installed at least 27 inches above the floor support ease of motion and reduce the need for residents to bend down.

Throughout the project, care was taken to maintain respect for the historical significance of the 1920s home. Recessed panel doors were installed to reflect the original design, and items such as crystal doorknobs – which did not meet the accessibility standards required for the main floor – were moved to the second level to preserve the home’s historic authenticity.

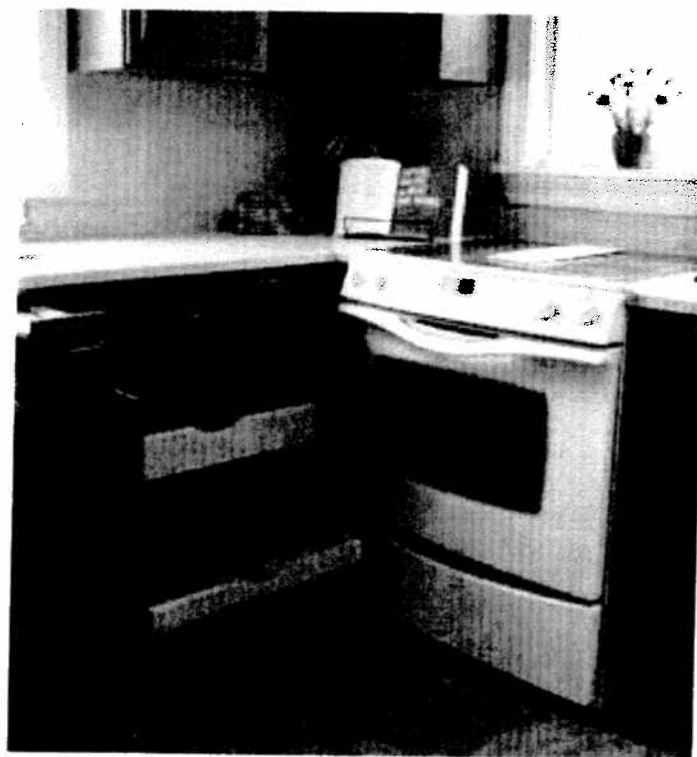


The Kitchen

Rowen made numerous improvements to the kitchen, maximizing the small space while minimizing the need for bending, reaching or any type of physical strain. Rowen moved away from the original layout – which focused on one wall for storage, counter space and sink access – and created a U-shape design with appliances spaced for ease of motion and operation.

The dishwasher was raised off the floor, range controls were positioned at the front of the appliance and easy-to-open cabinet hardware and

Universal design considerations in the kitchen include a raised dishwasher and cabinetry with roll-out shelving.



roll-out shelves were incorporated throughout. A microwave was installed at eye-level with a breadboard placed below as a landing space for hot items. A smooth top electric range was selected with downdraft ventilation to pull heat from the surface, and a GFCI circuit was located in the kitchen for safety as required by code. A smooth, solid surface countertop allows for easy repairs, and an integrated drain board and cutting areas provide added cooking conveniences. The sink offers a pull-out spray and a soap dispenser.

The Powder Room

Despite its small size and infrequent usage, even the accessibility of the powder room was given attention. Rowen installed a 36-inch height vanity to minimize bending, with an easy-reach single control faucet located on the side of the sink. A three-foot wide doorway allows for easy entry into the small space, which also features a comfort-height toilet with grab bars and a slide-on toilet paper dispenser.

The Master Suite

A private entrance to the master suite was created adjacent to the powder room, with a clear transition from one area to the next. The bedroom area was enlarged to accommodate a king-size bed while still allowing three-foot clearance on either side. Special features of the room include an in-wall ironing board, lighted closets with bi-fold doors, lighted switches and additional outlets at each nightstand. The bedroom was also pre-wired for a mechanical door closer, should the need arise in the future. Addition-

ally, the room's level-loop carpeting is a contrasting color from the bathroom floor, to create a safe, noticeable transition from room to room.

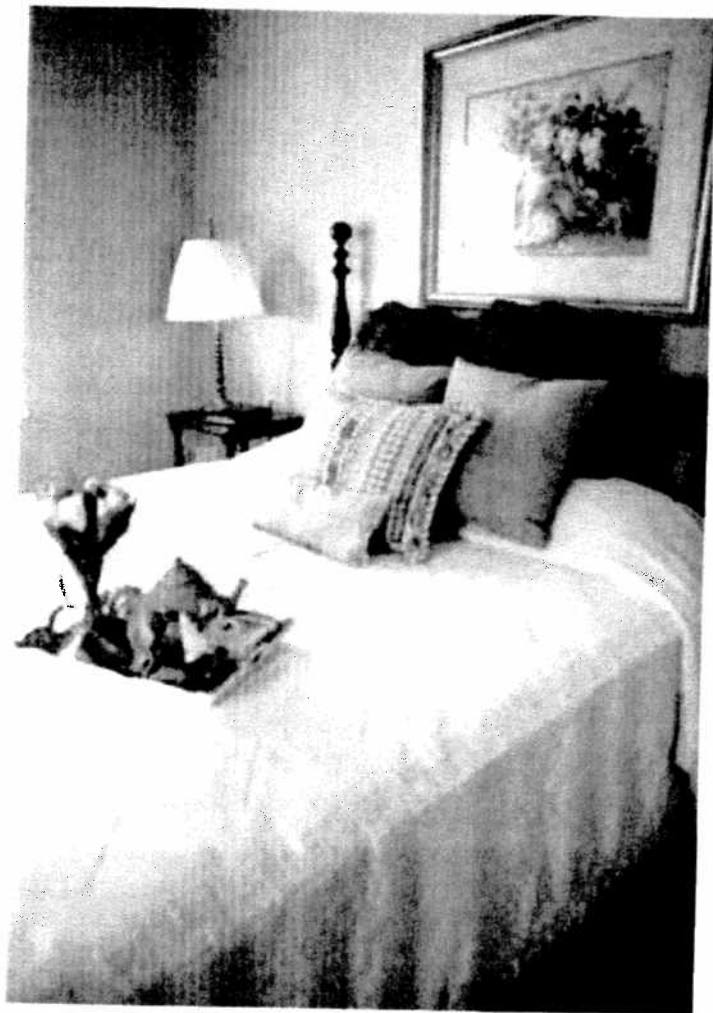
The design of the master bath includes a 60-inch shower with a bench seat, a 36-inch high vanity, a comfort height toilet and a front load washer and dryer stacked and raised with shut-off controls near the door opening. Reaching and bending considerations were addressed in the shower areas through valve, shower head and soap storage locations. A lower threshold was also designed. Non-slip and non-glare vinyl flooring as well as smooth cultured marble shower surfaces allow for easy maintenance. Increased lighting and ventilation, including a light in the shower, was addressed. Grab bars in the toilet area and a single control faucet at the side of the sink round out the accessibility features of this room. Linen and vacuum storage was also provided for within the master bath due to limited storage space throughout the home.

Product Highlights

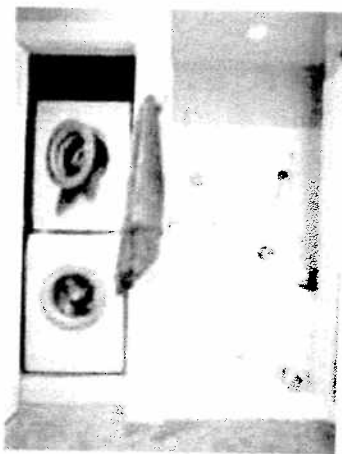
Rowen utilized a variety of products at varying price points to complete this project. Time and again she specifies products from Kohler and Moen, both Industry Partners of ASID, due to their style options and high quality. "They offer a great range of styles, especially considering the range of architectural periods I am trying to complement in my clients' homes," explains Rowen. "Despite the longer lead time, the style, quality and dependability is important to me." (See the resource guide on page 39 for a complete list of the products used.)



The home's powder room includes accessible features such as a 36-inch height vanity to minimize bending and a three-foot wide doorway.



The master suite includes a bedroom, storage areas and the master bath with shower and laundry area.



Rowen selects cultured marble as a material of choice in her bathroom designs, largely for its versatility. Available in sheets, the marble can fit to accommodate any shape or size shower, an important benefit when working with the constraints of historic homes. Another of Rowen's "go-to" products is EOS solid surface material, used for kitchen counter applications. It is three-centimeters thick, which means lower fabrication costs – somewhere between the cost of laminate and granite – and has a smooth, seamless surface ideal for integrated bowls, drain boards and cutting areas.

If I Could Change One Thing ...

In every project there are always constraints that prevent designers from achieving the ideal design. The MacRitchie's budget did not allow for major structural change, such as moving load-bearing walls – nor was this necessary to achieve the primary accessibility goals of the renovation. "If I could have moved a wall, I would have," describes Rowen, who would have liked more space in the bedroom for additional clearance around the bed, as well as turn-around space in the master suite toilet and a roll-in shower application.

Still, no matter the restrictions, Rowen provided the highest level of accessibility and conveniences possible and even considered future needs, while always keeping the owners' preferences at the forefront. "I love the house ... and it will work well as we get older and if we do need a walker or wheelchair," comments Mary Anne MacRitchie. "We love what Pat did for us and her advice was terrific."

Educating by Example

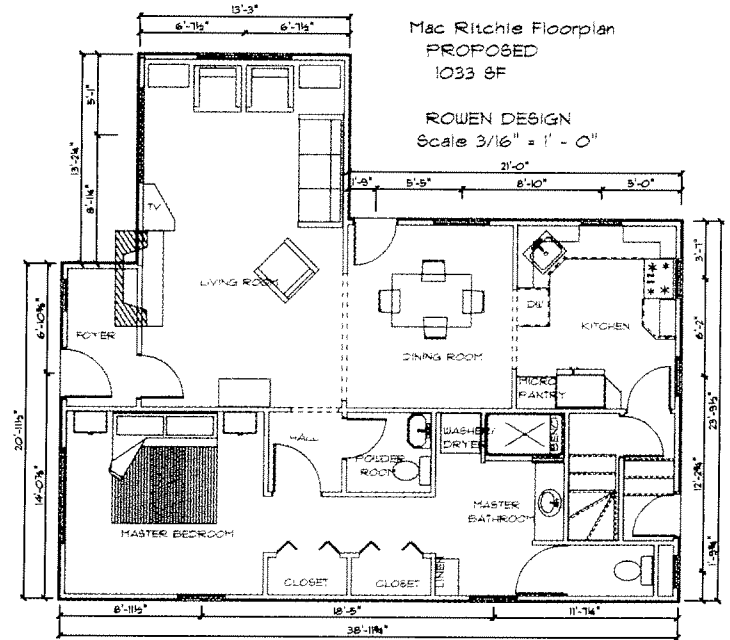
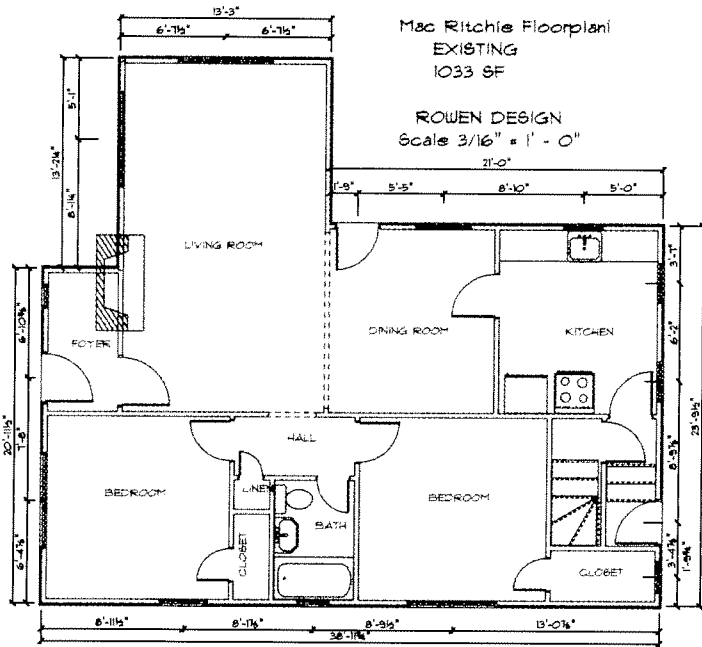
The MacRitchie's home renovation afforded Rowen – who partnered with Rob Glass, CAPS, of Glass Construction, on the project – the opportunity to not only improve the couple's lifestyle, but to educate the community on the benefits of universal design as well. "I see it as serving my community rather than just designing for profit," says Rowen. I am providing a service that I think everyone should be able to afford. It is my personal commitment."

The MacRitchies opened their home as a showcase house so that neighbors and friends could imagine the possibilities for their own homes. Visitors toured the home prior to construction and were then invited back after the work was complete.

"It was really amazing. People were at the door when we opened and didn't stop coming for two days," describes Rowen.

Glass also recognizes the impact this project had on the community: "Based on the showcase house, I am getting approached by so many people. We established some awareness, and now they want to be better educated," he explains. ■

Jenny S. Rebholz, Allied Member ASID, is an interior designer and journalist with a passion for writing about great design and educating the public on design issues and trends.



What Legislators Need to Know About Interior Design



CONSUMERS BENEFIT WHEN INTERIOR
DESIGNERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRACTICE





Interior design and the health, safety and welfare of the public



Every decision an interior designer makes in one way or another affects life safety and quality of life. Some of those decisions include designing safe environments for everyone from infants to the aged; specifying furniture, fabric and carpeting that comply with fire codes and with other applicable building codes; designing ergonomic work spaces; space planning that provides proper means of egress; and providing solutions for the handicapped and other persons with special needs.

Qualified interior designers have comprehensive professional training, technical knowledge and responsibilities and must have many competencies including

- » Space planning that provides proper means of egress
- » Lighting design in the home and workplace
- » Specifying furniture, fabrics and finishes that comply with fire codes and toxicity standards
- » Determining proper application and appropriate use of finishes for maximum safety
- » Barrier-free design
- » Compliance with national, state and local building codes
- » Design solutions for those with special needs
- » Designing ergonomic work spaces

Why should interior designers be registered or licensed?

The interior design of all built environments significantly impacts the health, safety and welfare of the public. The public benefits from knowing that the individuals they entrust with the design of their interior spaces are qualified.

Legal recognition (registration or licensure) establishes enforceable standards of minimum competency, including education, experience and examination.

Qualified interior designers improve the health, safety and welfare of the public in the spaces they design. Legal recognition ensures that only qualified individuals design interior spaces or represent themselves as having the qualifications to do so.

By providing legal definitions of the scope of interior design practice and who may refer to themselves as a "registered [certified] interior designer," legislation helps consumers differentiate the responsibilities and services of each of the design professions. In addition to health, safety and welfare benefits, legal recognition helps consumers choose the appropriate professional and brings the benefit of open competition to the design process.

The three E's of interior design

The career path of a professional interior designer involves formal education, entry-level work experience and a qualifying examination.

» **EDUCATION** Completing a degree in interior design is an essential element to professional practice of interior design. This formal education prepares the professional interior designer with a unique array of knowledge and skills specific to the interior environment. For more information on interior design education, visit the Foundation for Interior Design Education Research (FIDER) at www.fider.org.

» **EXPERIENCE** Entry-level work experience facilitates the development of competent interior designers who can provide interior design services and work as professional members of any design team. Work experience is required of candidates for the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) examination, and all state licensing boards require proof of quality interior design experience for licensure and/or registration.

» **EXAMINATION** Examination is an elemental component of determining whether or not an individual has met the minimum competency standards to practice a profession. The NCIDQ exam is currently the only examination that tests minimum competency in the full body of interior design knowledge. The NCIDQ examination is entirely directed at public health, safety and welfare. For more information about NCIDQ, visit www.ncidq.org.



The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) is a nonprofit professional society representing the interests of interior designers and the interior design community. ASID has more than 38,000 members in 48 chapters across the country. The Society's number one legislative priority is the legal recognition of interior designers in all 50 states.



608 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002-6006

For additional information about ASID, visit the
Web site at www.asid.org or e-mail gpa@asid.org

What is an interior designer?

A professional interior designer is qualified by education, experience and examination to enhance the function, safety and quality of interior spaces. Interior designers combine knowledge of building codes, critical and creative thinking, communication and technology for the purpose of improving the quality of life, increasing productivity and protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Interior design encompasses many specialties in residential, commercial and institutional interiors, including homes, hotels, restaurants, schools and universities, dormitories, office and industrial interiors, health care facilities and nursing homes.

INTERIOR DESIGNERS' SERVICES INCLUDE

- » Consultations
- » Programming
- » Space planning
- » Design analysis
- » Drawings
- » Specifications of fixtures and their locations
- » Furnishings
- » Reflected ceiling plans
- » Non-load-bearing elements of interior spaces of buildings

The NCIDQ Credential: The Mark of a Professional



**National Council for
Interior Design Qualification**

It is more important than ever for clients and the public to expect interior design professionals to demonstrate their competency in all areas of interior design. It is not enough for a provider of interior design services to understand just the aesthetics. The designed safety of interiors for home owners, business owners or users of public and private spaces requires much more in today's complex world.

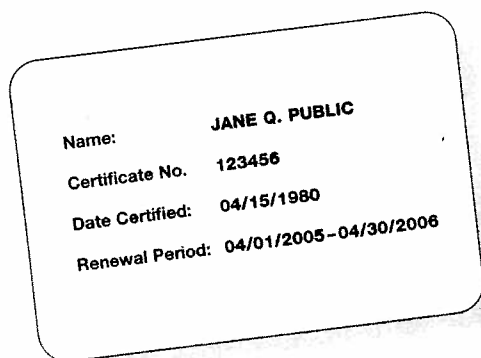


The NCIDQ Credential

Earning an NCIDQ Certificate is an important credential for any interior designer. In today's increasingly competitive marketplace, an NCIDQ Certificate demonstrates that the designer is uniquely qualified through education, experience and examination to competently practice interior design.

NCIDQ is not a membership organization and "NCIDQ" is not used as an appellation. The NCIDQ credential is a design practice credential. NCIDQ Certificate holders are interior designers who have demonstrated their competence in the profession by passing a comprehensive examination. Many are registered or licensed to practice in states or jurisdictions across the United States and Canada that use the NCIDQ exam as the testing standard for legal recognition of practitioners. Others have voluntarily taken the examination to verify their competence in the profession.

The correct "Mark of the Professional" is Jane Public, NCIDQ Certificate No. 123456.



NCIDQ

The National Council for Interior Design Qualification, a non-profit organization, has served since 1974 to designate, through administration of a comprehensive examination, those individuals competent to practice interior design in the United States and Canada. It is the only body within the interior design profession to establish comprehensive standards for interior design professionals in order to protect the public health, life safety and welfare.

NCIDQ is much more than a competency examination. It is an organization of dedicated volunteer interior design professionals and educators managed by an eight-person Board of Directors, which includes a public member who is not a designer. It is supported by a professional staff in the Council's Washington, DC office and is governed by a Council of Delegates, which represents each member regulatory board.

What is Interior Design?

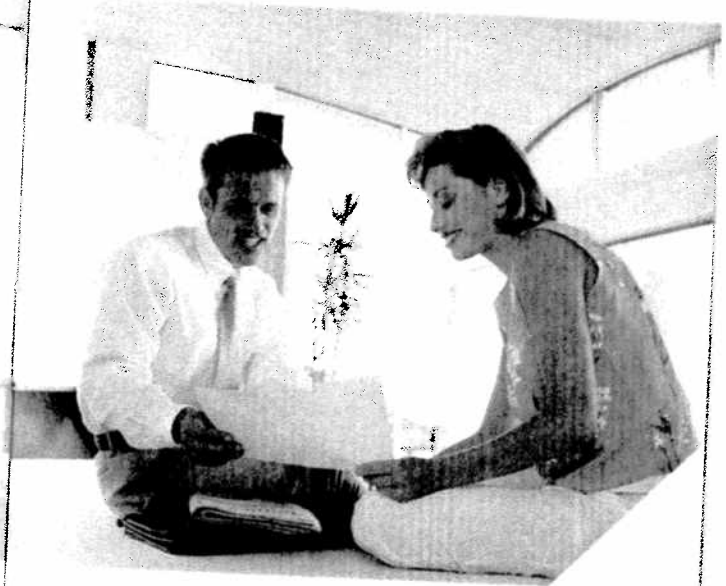
Interior design is a multi-faceted profession in which creative and technical solutions are applied to interior environments to produce an interior space that fulfills the project goals. It includes:

- A systematic process that involves research, analysis and integration of knowledge into the creative process, to produce an interior space that fulfills the project goals.
- Designs that adhere to building and accessibility codes and other regulatory requirements.
- Designs that encourage the principles of environmental sustainability.
- Solutions that are functional, enhance the quality of life and are aesthetically attractive.

The Examination

The examination focuses on those aspects of the profession that affect the public health, life safety and welfare as well as the common body of knowledge essential to the competent professional practice of interior design. NCIDQ Certificate holders are judged competent in such skills as:

- Analysis of client goals and requirements
- Application of life-safety codes and accessibility regulations
- Knowledge of environmental and sustainability guidelines
- Formulation of scaled drawings, specifications and other documents
- Selections of furniture, materials, finishes and colors to convey design concepts and meet requirements
- Preparation of construction documents, contract administration and collaboration with allied design professionals



Did You Know?

NCIDQ also provides many other services to the interior design profession. Among them are:

- The Interior Design Experience Program, a monitored work experience program for graduates that serves as a transition between formal education and professional practice.
- Model language that jurisdictions can use when writing interior design legislation.
- A continuing education transcript service so professional continuing education can be verified.

Ask your interior designer to prove that he or she has demonstrated competence in the knowledge skills and abilities required as a professional by having the NCIDQ Certificate. Make sure you require the same level of competence from your interior design professional as you do from the architects, engineers and other building professionals involved in your project.

Visit our Web site at www.ncidq.org for more information or call 202-721-0220.



**National Council for
Interior Design Qualification**

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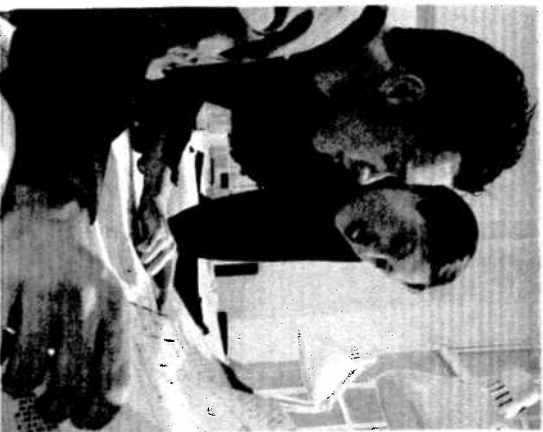
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The Interior Design Experience Program (IDEP) is a monitored, documented experience program administered by the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) for entry-level interior designers.

The career path of a professional interior designer involves formal education, supervised work experience and a qualifying examination. Work experience is required of candidates for the NCIDQ Examination. State licensing boards and provincial associations require proof of quality, diversified interior design experience for licensure and/or registration.

IDEP assists entry-level interior designers in obtaining a broad range of quality profes-



- sonal experience. The program provides a structure for the essential transition between formal education and professional practice, recognizing the differences between classroom and workplace.
- The purpose of IDEP is to develop competency in interior design practice by:
 - ✱ Promoting the acquisition of professional discipline, skills and knowledge.
 - ✱ Validating experience through consistent documentation.
 - ✱ Providing an instrument for quantifying work experience for licensing and future career opportunities.

- ✱ Developing career networking relationships between entry-level designers, work supervisors and experienced mentors.
- ✱ Preparing participants for the NCIDQ Examination.
- ✱ Enhancing the professionalism of the practice of interior design.

IDEP creates value for participants, employers and mentors by facilitating the development of competent interior designers who can provide exemplary interior design services and work as individuals or members of teams of professionals involved in the design of the built environment.

Why Participate in IDEP?

IDEP provides a complete and balanced "curriculum" for the participant's first years of work. It targets critical experience areas for the professional interior designer, regardless of design specialty area. Two or three years of participation is required depending on the length of your design education (see reverse for a detailed description of program hours). IDEP helps prepare you for the NCIDQ Examination and licensure/registration. It builds on your professional network through mentorship and greater workplace participation.

Participation Incentive

Participants who successfully complete all IDEP requirements by December 31, 2010 can take Section III of the NCIDQ Examination for FREE the first time! Eligible participants must take Section III within one year of completing IDEP.

Key Players in IDEP

The program supports you by giving you guidance from many viewpoints. The first key player in IDEP is you. The individuals who

Supervisor **Mentor**

participate in IDEP are called "participants." You are joined in this endeavor by "supervisors," "mentors," NCIDQ and in some instances by a U.S. regulatory board or Canadian provincial association.

Your Supervisor

Your supervisor is your employer or immediate supervisor within your office. Your supervisor must be an NCIDQ Certificate holder or a licensed/registered interior designer or an architect who offers interior design services. Over the course of your participation in IDEP you may have more than one supervisor.

Your IDEP supervisor supports your career by:

- ✱ Enhancing communication with you through a structured program of assessing current skills and planning for future on-the-job learning.
- ✱ Tracking your development through various work experience categories.
- ✱ Promoting your professional development outside the scope of a typical employee's everyday tasks.
- ✱ Supporting your commitment to becoming a licensed/registered professional.

Your Mentor

Your mentor is an interior designer for whom you do not work. Your mentor will give you career advice as you move through the program. You should communicate with your mentor at least three times a year. Over the course of your participation in IDEP you may have more than one mentor. Your mentor must be an NCIDQ Certificate holder or a licensed/registered interior designer. Your mentor should be employed outside your firm or should have a non-supervisory relationship with you.

Your IDEP mentor supports your career by:

- ✱ Putting you in touch with interior designers who may have a different perspective of the profession.
- ✱ Giving you opportunities to learn through new ways of viewing challenges that you may encounter.

NCIDQ—the National Council for Interior Design Qualification—is available to assist you before, during and after your participation in IDEP. NCIDQ is composed of a staff in Washington, DC and dozens of volunteers located across North America. As volunteers, both the Board of Directors and the IDEP Committee support this program and you.

The IDEP Committee constantly monitors the program to improve it. If you have any suggestions about the program, please send them to NCIDQ at info@ncidq.org.

The NCIDQ staff is available during normal business hours to answer questions you might have about the program and to explain the requirements of the program.

Your State Board or Provincial

There are many names for these entities, but in general a "regulatory board" is a legally constituted private or governmental organization that is charged with regulating the interior design profession and professions within a jurisdiction. These boards may enact laws or regulations that require future licensed/registered professional interior designers to participate in IDEP before a license or registration will be granted. It is essential that you know the status of the laws in the state or province where you intend to practice.

* Participation is voluntary in most jurisdictions, but state/provincial boards and employers may mandate enrollment in IDEP for verifiable, diversified interior design experience.

* You must find your own job; the program is not a placement service.

* You must complete a minimum of 3,520 hours if you possess a baccalaureate degree in an interior design program of no less than 120 semester or 180 quarter credit hours of which 60 semester or 90 quarter hours, respectively, are interior design-related. OR 5,280 hours if you possess a certificate, degree or diploma including no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours of interior design-related coursework.

* The hours of experience are distributed among these six competency areas:

- Programming
- Schematic Design
- Design Development
- Contract Documents
- Contract Administration
- Professional Practice

* The definition of "experience" includes:

- Working directly in a competency area.
- Observing others who are engaged in such work.
- Attending lectures, seminars and continuing education courses. This type of post-degree educational experience can be used to fulfill no more than 10% of the total required hours.

Experience is tracked in your Log Book and submitted to NCIDQ for review. You can submit your Log Book to NCIDQ online or by fax or mail. Your IDEP supervisor must verify the accuracy and completeness of your Log Book before you submit it to NCIDQ.

Your supervisor must meet regularly with you to discuss and sign off on your work. Your mentor must consult with you regularly (in person, by phone or e-mail) to discuss your ongoing experience and alternatives, if needed, to fulfill the experience in the six competency areas.

Note: Over the course of the program, you may have more than one employer, more than one supervisor and/or more than one mentor.

A full-time employee can expect to complete the program in approximately two or three years, depending on the hours required for your formal education program level. Part-time employees may take longer to complete the program.

Give your interior design career a running start!

Download an IDEP Application online
at www.ncidq.org today!



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